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THE RAVING FOE

A CIVIL WAR DIARY AND LIST OF PRISONERS

Compiled and Edited

By J. C. Poe

THE RAVING FOE

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The Civil War Diary of Major James T. Poe, C.S.A. and the 11th Arkansas Volunteers

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And a Complete List of Prisoners

Compiled and Edited By
J. C. Poe

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By J. C. Poe

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CONTENTS

Dedication

Prologue

List of Letters Sent and Received

Diary Contents

List of Those Who Died in Co. A

Picture of Maj. James T. Poe

Forward ---------- 1

The Diary Begins ---------- 2

Map of Capture Area Drawn By Maj. Poe -------- 38

A Pay Voucher Belonging to Maj. Poe ---------- 44

Epilogue ---------- 54

The Poe Coat of Arms ---------- 66

The Poes and Their Name ---------- 67

A Son's Account of the Major ---------- 71

Author J. C. Poe and a collection of documents pertaining to Maj. Poe, including sample diary penmanship.

An Alphabetical List of Prisoners on Johnson's Island

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the 1,253 men whose names appear in the back of the diary as prisoners of war on Johnson Island, Ohio. I would especially honor the memory of those who died serving in the Eleventh Arkansas Volunteer Regiment.

Major J. T. Poe, a plantation owner who survived the war, was my great-grandfather. As a young boy growing up, my grandfather, Captain Buddy Poe, entertained me during the long winter evenings by reading from the old diary and telling many stories of the Southern states at war as we sat by a roaring fire in the old stone fireplace. The diary fascinated me and, child-like, I asked for it. I was told that at my grandfather's death the diary would go to his oldest son, J. T. (Tommie) Poe, and that at his death the diary would be given to me.

Much gratitude and appreciation goes to my daughter, Margie Poe Green, who has been especially helpful in the editing, researching and typing of the material contained in this book.

My appreciation also goes to my cousin, Dale Poe of Tyler, Texas, who furnished the picture of Major J. T. Poe in uniform, and to Hollis B. Brice of Midland, Texas who furnished certain documents.

PROLOGUE

This is the personal diary of Major James T. Poe as he wrote it during his confinement in Johnson's Island Prison in Ohio. Changes have been made only in spelling and in punctuation.

James T. Poe, a second cousin of the famous writer, Edgar Allen Poe, was born in Alabama in 1829. His father, Calvin Poe, was a native of North Carolina and his grandfather, John Poe, was born in Virginia. John Poe was of English descent. James T. Poe's mother, Mary Willingham Poe, was a native of Augusta, Georgia.

What manner of man was Major James T. Poe? His gentleness, kindness, faith, and concern permeate each line he wrote. He loved his family and was man enough not to be ashamed to express that love. He became frustrated at injustices, yet always tried to be fair to all. He was a man not unlike many other men. Yet, he possessed some undefined quality that makes an ordinary man stand taller than those around him. Perhaps it was compassion generously seasoned with the right amount of humility.

James T. Poe had come to Arkansas in 1856 with his wife, Mary Nall Poe. He had been confident that this was the place to build a home, a place to rear children. He had planted the fertile fields and he became a man of means. He had been interested in community affairs and he was elected County and Probate Judge. Yes, the first five years in Arkansas had been prosperous ones. He and Mary had come to love their adopted state.

The Arkansas Convention voted to secede from the Union and in June, 1861, Arkansas became a member of the Confederacy. James T. Poe saw his duty clearly. For such a man as he, the nightmare of being at war with one's own countrymen must have been almost incomprehensible — as he as thoroughly describes it in his diary.

The thoughts of Poe must have tumbled as pieces in a kaliedoscope as he prepared to leave his family. He was a man sensitive to the things around him. He must have wondered if he would ever look out on this land again. He must have wondered if the sunset would ever again radiate its brilliance on a peaceful nation. He must have wondered if his children would soon forget him. He must have wondered so many things . . .

His brief discourse on why he was going to war, could be Every-Man's reason, a hundred years ago, 25 years ago, or today.

List of Letters Received and Forwarded

Wife — The first letter from my wife after being released from prison came to hand the 7th Nov. and was answered the 8th Nov. 1862. No. 13 letter written to wife the 16th Nov. 1862. No. 14th letter.

Father — First letter from father dated the 30th Sept., 1862 and to hand the 9th Oct. and answered immediately. Written to father the 9th Nov. and again the 21st Nov.

Sister — First letter from sister Lucy Ann to hand the 7th Nov., 1862 and answered about 12th Nov, 1862.

Wife — Written to wife 23rd Nov, 1862 (Sunday) No. 15th Letter.

Sister F — Written to sister Francis Brewer the 25th Nov. 1862 and in the same to Aunt Jane Andrews and Sister Wright.

Wife's Letter No. 16 — Second letter from Wife, dated the 13th and to hand the 26th Nov., 1862. Answered the 30th Nov. with 500 dollars in it, No. 16 Letter.

Father — Written to Father the 30th Nov. 1862

Wife's Letter No. 17 — Written to Wife the 7th December, 1862, and sent a pocketbook with 50 dollars and 20 letters stamps in it by Lieut. Clift. No. 17

Wife Letters No. 18 — Written to wife the 16 December and sent it by Dr. Whitfield. No. 18

Wife's Letter No. 19 — Written to wife the 17th December and sent it by Mr. Page. No. 19

Wife's Letter — Written to wife the 21st and 26th December and sent it by Robinson. No. 20

Written to wife the 1st and 9th Jan., 1863, sent by Ball. No. 21

Written to wife the 14th Jan. 1863. No. 22

Written to wife the 17th and 19th Jan., 1863. No. 23

Written to Wife the 25 and sent it to Camdon. No. 24

Written to wife Jan. 27th and 1st Feb. and sent by Sudduth. No. 25

Written to wife Feb. 5th and 6th and sent by Thompson. No. 26

Written to wife Feb. 11th and sent to Ark. No. 27

Written to wife Feb. 15th, 1863. No. 28

Written to wife Feb. 20th and sent by a currior. No. 29

Written to wife 24th and 25th and sent by Page. No. 30

Written to wife the 1st of March, 1863. No. 31

Written to wife the 3rd and 8th March, 1863 No. 32

This Diary Covers the Following Subjects:

Organization of the 11th Ark. Regt. Vol.
From Benton to Little Rock
Leaving Home for the War
Proceeded to the regiment at Pine Bluff
Taken our Leave from Oakland for Memphis
At the Fairground East of Memphis
Moved from Fairground to Popular Springs
Left Memphis for Fort Pillow
Landed at Fort Pillow 29th Sept. 1861
My trip to Memphis in Company of 80 Men
At Fort Pillow Again
Our Leave from Fort Pillow for Island 10, Tenn.
Moved from Main Shore to the Island
All Safe on Island 10
Col. J. M. Smith Returns from New Orleans
Drilling on Island 10, Tenn.
Orders to Move to New Madrid, Mo.
Taken to Mrs. Maulsby's
At home after being absent near six months
Bade Adue to Wife and Children and Left Home for War
At Memphis on My Return to the War
Evacuation of Fort Tompson and New Medrid
Taken by Leave of Memphis for Camp
Landed at Tiptonsville
Returned to my Regiment the 20th March, 1862
Map of Island 10 and Surrounding Country
Moved to Watson's Battery
Retreated Out of New Badrid Bend
Surrender of 11th Ark. Regt..
After Being Surrendered
Landed at New Madrid, Mo.
Left Cairo, Ill.
Left Camp Chase, Ohio
Reached Johnson Island 26th April 1862
Johnson's Island July 31, 1862
(No other index listings given)

List of Persons Died in Co. A (Capt. Vance)
11th Regiment of Arkansas Volunteers

1. David Hopson	Died at Benton	July, 1861
2. John Hood	Fort Pillow	Nov. 4, 1861
3. John H. Stud	Island 10, Tenn.	Dec. 17, 1861
4. John Orr	New Madrid, Mo.	Feb. 22, 1862
5. Oliver Russell	Memphis, Tenn.	March, 1862
6. Jackson McCol	Memphis, Tenn.	1862
7. John Reeves	Madrid Bend	April, 1862
8. B. P. Brewer	Madrid Bend, Tenn.	April 10, 1862
9. F. M. Walters	Camp Douglas, Inn.	April 26, 1862
10. John W. Watson	Camp Douglas, Ill.	May 11,1862
11. J. R. Miller	Camp Douglas, Ill.	May 11,1862
12. A. Horton	Camp Douglas, Ill.	May 17, 1862
13. T. W. Lucus	Camp Douglas, Ill.	May 18, 1862
14. J. N. Lawrance	Camp Douglas, Ill.	June 3, 1862
15. J. H. Nickles	Camp Douglas, Ill.	June 7, 1862
16. Baylos Reynolds	Camp Douglas, Ill.	June 17, 1862
17. W. A. C. Ramsey	Camp Douglas, Ill.	June 24, 1862
18. W. S. Shepherd	Camp Douglas, Ill.	July 4, 1862
19. Joseph Brewer	Camp Douglas, Ill.	
20. Thomas Shepherd	Near Jackson, Miss.	October, 1862

MAJOR JAMES T. POE

FOREWARD

Begins the Diary . . . a request and an apology —

The following memorandum and note, of the organization and travels of the 11th Arkansas Regt. Also the travels of James T. Poe, Maj., of said regiment, has been written in prison by J. T. Poe.

In case I should sicken and die or in any way am deprived of getting home, my desire is that some friend would convey this book to my family, so that my wife and children can read and know something of my travels since I left them. Though this book gives but a very short sketch of my travels, sickness, and hardships since I left my family for the war. I have written this book at such times as I could get. Sometimes in a midst of one hundred or more men, some talking and laughing and all kinds of past time so that the reader will not be astonished at the many mistakes in spelling and absent or missing words and improper sentences, even since I have been writing on this page I have been detracted several times and once was so interrupted that I listened into a conversation. Seven men are here around me talking at this time, so has been my condition all the time I have been writing this book. Therefore if any person reads this book I hope they will excuse me for the many mistakes I have made.

Jas. T. Poe
Prisoner of War on
Johnson's Island, Ohio

(Begins the narrative of Maj. Poe)

The following Journal contains a short history of the organization and movements of the 11th Ark. Regiment. Also a short history of the travels and scenes of James T. Poe, Major of Said Regiment.

1st (first) Co. A. Commanded by Capt. Vance; I, James T. Poe, 1st Lieut.; J. A. Shepherd, 2nd Lieut.; and M. N. Shepherd, 3rd Lieut.; E. A. Poe, 1st orderly Sergeant.

We met at W. S. Shepherd Esqu., prepared to take up our march from there to Little Rock, but after meeting and consulting the wish of the Company, it was agreed upon that we would march to Benton, the county site of our county, viz, Saline City.

Accordingly, on the evening of that day, being the 5th day of July. 1861, the company marched and on the 6th about noon, the Company arrived at Benton.

When the Company left W. S. Shepherd's, I, being in bad health, did not go with the Company, but returned home and there remained until the 8th of July. Then, believing myself able to join my company, I, in the company of J. W. Poe, went to Benton. Before reaching the place I found that I was growing worse so I called at Wm. Brent's who kept a public house in Benton. There I was confined to my room for about three weeks with typhoid fever and was waited on by Dr. Adams. As soon as I was able to walk across the street, I visited the camp which was two miles from town and for three days in succession I visited the camp accompanied by John W. Shoppach, clerk of Saline County. The 4th day after my first day to camp, I, by the

kindness of Esqu. Shoppach was furnished with his horse and buggy, and I went home. On reaching home I found my family all well. I remained there about one week and enjoyed myself with my family as best I could.

I then returned to my company, leaving my family with the promise that I would visit them again before I took my leave for the battlefield. On reaching the company I found them enjoying good health and all enjoying themselves as brothers. On my arrival, I found six other companies encamped and parading on the same ground.

George M. Holt, having been authorized by the Military Board at Little Rock as mustering officer to raise and organize a regiment, was attempting to do his job. I was informed, on my arrival, that the Company was mustered into the Service by said Holt on the 8th day of July, 1861, and other companies as they came in.

About this time I was advised by Dr. Morton to resign my position as 1st Lieut. and to remain with my family, saying that I had not the constitution to bear up under the hardship and fatigue that certainly would come upon me as a soldier. But feeling that as a freeman, that there was work for me to do, and feeling that if I did not go forth in my country's defense, that I would not be doing justice to my wife and children, therefore, I did not take the doctor's advice, but was mustered into the Confederate Service by G. M. Holt.

Two of the sons of Judge Watkins and Capt. Hordly of Little Rock had volunteered their services and were drilling the companies in the company drill. All got along fine.

The camp was being visited daily by the relatives and the friends of the different companies. The ladies of Benton and vacinity have my best regards for the many visits and many presents to our soldiers. Most especially Mr. and Mrs. Brents have my best regards for their kind treatment to me while I was sick at their house and I feel that I owe them a debt of gratitude. Yes, a debt that I hope to pay if spared to return to the land of Dixie.

Organization of the 11th Ark. Regiment

On or about the 28th of July, 1861, the regiment was organized by electing the field officers, which resulted as follows:

Jabery M. Smith elected Col. Com.; Mr. Handly of Little Rock, Lieut. Col.; and I, James T. Poe, promoted from 1st Lieut. of Company A to Major of said regiment.

One of our Capt. (Logan) having opposed Smith for Col. Comd. but failed in his election, he (Logan) proceeded forthwith to Little Rock and protested the election on the grounds that there was not a required number of companies as set forth in the army regulations to organize a regiment. He was the one who first proposed the organization of the regiment, in fact, he urged the election of the regiment. And for the reason set forth, the Military set aside the election since it had been proved to the Board that two of the companies liked a few men being full as required. These places were filled in a few days and the president of the Military Board ordered an election for field officers to take place on the 8th day of August, 1861.

On that day the regiment was organized by the re-el-

ection of Jabery M. Smith, Col.; M. S. Miller in place of Capt. Handly, and I re-elected Major. Then my place as 1st Lieut. in Company A was filled by the promotion of J. A. Shepherd from 2nd Lieut. to 1st; and M. N. Shepherd from 3rd to 2nd Lieut.; and E. A. Poe from orderly sergeant to 3rd Lieut.; and F. M. Walters elected orderly sergeant to fill the vacancy occurred by the promotion of E. A. Poe. F. M. Walters afterwards died in prison at Camp Douglas near Chicago, Illinois. He died on the 26th of April, 1862. Immediately after the organization of the regiment, Franklin Wright of Benton was appointed Quartermaster of the Regiment. He soon purchased mules and wagons sufficient to transport all the bags of the regiment.

From Benton to Little Rock

We received orders from the president of the Military Board to move to Little Rock. The order was obeyed and we marched to Little Rock, remained until on the 20th of August, 1861. On that day we took up the march for Pine Bluff. We had no serious luck through the day and struck camp about sunset, and on the next morning, being the 21st of August, I left the regiment for home about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I reached home and found my family enjoying good health with the exception of one of my little sons, though he was not seriously ill. Here my family met me with joy for they had supposed that I was gone for the war, but the hour was soon to come that joy would be turned into weeping.

Leaving Home for the War

On the morning of the 22nd of August, 1861, I was compelled to take leave of my devoted wife and four little

children and go forth to the battlefield in my country's defense, believing that the rights of the people of the South and the Constitution of the once great and glorious United States, was trampled under foot by the abolitionist North and feeling that if the war was put off from time to time that perhaps I might pass into my grave and then my children, with the rising generation, would have to contend for their just rights as free Southern people. At the same time I believe that the Constitution guaranteed unto any state the right to secede from the United States claiming it as her right and asking nothing. Nothing, as I believe, but what was just and right, she praying to be let alone and her with other seceded states to form a government of her own. But she was denied this right by the leading and ruling powers, North, vez., the abolitionist party. And I, knowing that an armed force of over 200,000 fighting men was then in arms for the purpose of subjugating the South of which my state was a member, I therefore, could brace up under the hard task of leaving Wife and children that are so near and dear to me, having been permitted to be with my family so far through life, and now leaving them to go to the battlefield, to meet a raving foe, who sought the lives of the Southerner. I knew not, but this leave of my family was for life, perhaps never to return. Therefore it was one of the hardest tasks of my life, though I bore up under it as best I could. But the hour came for me to leave and my wife could not part with me. She and my little boys accompanied me a few miles on my way, but finally I embraced the little boys and bade them farewell. Then to my wife who had been so kind a companion to me, I bade farewell. Here

the hard heart of man was made to melt in tears in spite of all exertions, but I left her with the hope that erelong I would return again.

Proceeded to the Regiment at Pine Bluff

This being the 22nd of August, I alone set out to Pine Bluff. The weather was very warm, the road very long and lonesome, and about sunset in the evening I reached the Bluff, there finding the regiment encamped. The health of the regiment was good with the exception of some few cases of measles. The regiment remained here some three or four days, then according to orders we took up our march to Oakland which is 16 miles below the bluff on the Arkansas River. The main portion of the regiment went by land, but I, with about 40 consisting mostly of those with measles and those not able to travel through the mud by land, went by water aboard a small Arkansas River boat. On reaching Oakland, we found it a low muddy swampy place. We remained here about five or six days. It rained every day and night. The mud between our tents was from shoe mouth to half a leg deep. The cooks were compelled to get bark, brush, and chunks and place around the fire to stand on to enable them to do their cooking. Although this place is so muddy, it is a fine cotton and corn growing country. While we were in this condition the men were falling sick every day with measles. Finally two boats succeeded in getting up the river to our camp and we made preparation for leaving the place.

Taken Our Leave of Oakland for Memphis

According to orders we left Oakland on the 27th of August aboard two steamers for Memphis. We had a plea-

sant trip having been taken out of the mud and placed on a comfortable boat. On the morning of the first day of September, 1861, we landed at the wharf at Memphis. The surgeon of the regiment was not with us and I ask the request of Col. Smith that we try to get our sick to the hospital, better known by the name of the Southern Mothers Home. There I found accomodations for all our sick which were about 60 in number. I then detailed wagons to haul the sick from the boats to the hospital. They were soon there and comfortably situated. The surgeons and old mothers took great interest in the welfare of the sick soldiers. Many of them could not have been better treated and had any more medical attention given them if they had been at their homes with their parents or families. Thus after leaving the sick all comfortably situated, I then returned to the regiment which had moved to a large cotton shed in the south part of Memphis. Late in the evening we received orders to move one and a half miles east of town to the fair ground. About sunset we reached the fair ground. We were almost stifled with clouds of dust though this was preferable to the mud at Oakland.

At the Fair Grounds East of Memphis

Having reached this place late on the evening of the first of September and being much wearied from the labors of the day we did not raise many of our tents that night. The next day was spent in raising tents and arranging the camp. The weather was very warm there, but little was done in the way of drilling. It is true that the Captains of the companies devoted a portion of the cool of each day in company drill. After we had been at the fair ground

about one week there was some hard feelings got up between Col. Smith and Capt. L. (NOTE: Major Poe did not reveal the name of the Captain.) The Captain conducted himself in such a way that I believe justice and right would have said, "Take his sword from him and order a court martial to investigate the case," but in the place of this the Col. passed it by wishing to get along with as little confusion as possible.

Moved from Fair Ground to Popular Street

On about the 15th of Sept. the weather being burning hot and water very scarce, the Col. gave orders to strike tents and move to a large spring on Popular Street two miles East of Main Memphis. This order was obeyed and the regiment encamped in a large wooded area, a beautiful grove of shade trees. Here we had good spring water. The spring was large and very cold. It afforded plenty of water for two regiments.

True, we had good water and but little fatigue, though I think I can safely say, in truth, that 200 of the regiment were sick and unfit for duty. 18 out of 20 cases were measles. There were few of the sick taken to the hospital after we got in camp. The surgeon chose to treat these cases himself rather than send them to the hospital. Beyond all expectation, there was not exceeding three or four that died with the measles.

During our stay at this place nothing serious occured. An Arkansas Company commanded by Capt. Mathis joined our regiment and was attached to the regiment as one of its companies. About the same time Anderson Cunningham, who was our wagonmaster, was sent to Arkansas as recruit-

ing officer. He afterwards returned to the regiment with a full company and he was Captain of the company.

During our stay at the Popular Spring, we received orders for the regiment to move to Union City, but owing to the health of the regiment having the measles and other sickness, and our guns being very inferior, therefore, the Col. refused to obey the order. The guns of the regiment consisted of the common plantation rifle, shotgun, and some few old British muskets.

On or about the 20th of September, 1861, Col. Smith, by order of General Polk, left camp for New Orleans with the guns of our regiment for the purpose of having them rebored and fitted out of sufficient size to carry the Minie ball. Col. Miller was left in command.

About the 25th of September, the mumps made its appearance in camp and a few cases of whooping cough. About this time I was visited by several of my old Alabama friends and some of my relatives that I had not seen for near seven years. They were in the service and camped about one mile from us. William Fears, late of Alabama, was one of my relatives that visited me. He was Captain of a company of infantry.

Left Memphis for Fort Pillow

On the 26th day of September, 1861, we received orders from General Polk to move to Fort Pillow. By the evening of the 27th we had moved the regiment and all our tents, baggage, provisions, etc. to the wharf at Memphis. That evening all went aboard the Steamer Ingomar. Late in the evening she steamed the current for Fort Pillow.

Landed at Fort Pillow, the 28th September, 1861

On the morning of 28th September, 1861, we landed at Fort Pillow. All were soon ashore. The wagons were busily employed in conveying our tents, baggage, provisions, etc. from the landing to the top of the hill. The Surgeon (J. L. Isaacs) lost no time in having the sick conveyed to the most comfortable places. I remained at the landing until all had been taken from the landing to the top of the hill. I then ascended the hill, the elevation being about one hundred feet above the level with the river.

Fort Pillow is on the East side of the Mississippi River, 75 miles above Memphis and about three miles above Fulton.

At the time of our arrival at Fort Pillow, Col. Tapen was in command of the fort. On our arrival he left for Columbus, Kentucky, and was soon afterwards engaged in a fight at Belmont which was on the opposite side of the river from Columbus. The 11th Regiment of Arkansas Volunteers encamped on the same ground that Col. Tapen left. Upon our arrival at the fort he moved his tents to give the place for ours.

As before mentioned, Fort Pillow is a high, elevated place. The country around Fort Pillow is a very broken, hilly country. The hills, though steep, are very rich. Very heavy timber consisting mostly of beech and poplar are seen. There are but a few farms near the front. The people living on these few farms were very kind to us and we were furnished with late vegetables at low prices.

Some few days were spent in forming and arranging our camp and fitting up for winter as winter was drawing nigh. Timber was scarce for building winter quarters,

therefore we had to fit up our cloth tents by putting chimneys to them. Some of the soldiers sunk square pits in the sides of the hills and covered them over which made warm and comfortable huts for wintering in. The commander of our regiment, having full command of the fort on our arrival at the fort, was given orders not to suffer any steamer or craft of any kind to pass without first coming to land and getting a written permission from the commander of the post. Therefore all water crafts, however small they might be, were compelled to land and give an account of itself. A guard was kept at the landing for that purpose and there was also about twenty cannons mounted near the water's edge pointing into the river. They were mostly thirty-two pounders. We had not had command of the fort but a short time, when a small boat was discovered coming down the river. Those commanding the cannon were away from their guns. She was a boat that made regular trips on the river and no one supposed that she would not come to shore as she had done oft-times. Therefore but little attention was paid to her, though the infantry guard was at their posts at the landing. They had strict orders not to let any boat pass, first shooting a signal gun across the bow of the boat and then if she refused to round in, their orders were to fire into the boat. Accordingly the guard obeyed the order by first firing a gun across the bow of the boat. She was under a full head of steam and continued her way down stream. She was then fired into by four or five of the guard. One of the balls passed through the cabin and through the room where the Captain's wife was lying taking her rest on her bed. It hit a mahogany table, then a

water pitcher, barely missing the captain's wife by about two feet. The boat by this time had passed the fort and before orders could be given to the artillary and before they could get to their post and make ready, the boat was out of range.

My Trip to Memphis in Command of Eighty Men

Lieut. Col. Miller was in command and gave me orders to take with me eighty men and pursue the boat and see what was the cause of her acting so strange. We were also to fetch her back to the fort. We went aboard a small frail steamer known as the BEN. This strange boat had nearly one hour start of me. Though we pursued her, it took about four hours to come in sight of her and she was about five miles from us. We did not overtake her till she had landed at Memphis. She beat us there about thirty minutes after a race of 75 miles and having one hour start of us. We landed and went on deck of her. I inquired for the captain of the boat but he could not be found. I then went to the commander at Memphis and reported the case to him. He promised me that he would have the case investigated and gave orders for the captain of the boat to appear before him at his office. He then notified be that I could return to Fort Pillow. This was late in the evening and my men were without anything to eat. Therefore I requisitioned for one day's provisions. By the time the men could prepare and eat their supper, they had had no dinner, it was 7:00 at night. The Captain of our boat informed me that his pilot was inexperienced and had never run the river after night. He said that he would be glad if I would permit him to remain there until morning for the safety of myself and men.

I gave orders for the boat to remain there until morning, but to leave at daybreak. The next morning by sunrise we were sailing up the Mississippi River for Fort Pillow and about six o'clock we reached the fort all safe and sound with the exception of a few who had taken a little more of the overjoyful than they could keep quiet with.

At Fort Pillow Again

Soon after my return from Memphis, Col. M. S. Miller visited Memphis on business and while there employed Major Smith of St. Louis, Mo., as drill master. He immediately came to Fort Pillow and lost no time in drilling the regiment in the battalion drill and the maneuver of arms. I must confess that I had never drilled the regiment in the battalion drill up to this time, but had studied. However, I needed the practical part. Major Smith had not been there but a few days until I took command of the battalion assisted by Major Smith. In a short time my pleasureful hours were passed while drilling the regiment in the battalion drill. Thus passed the most of the month of October.

About October 20th, Col. Smith returned from New Orleans, but did not get our guns repaired. He left them with the promise that they would be completed and forwarded to him in the next two or three weeks. Therefore we were destitute of guns, even for guard duty with the exception of 85 very good Minie muskets that had been procured at Little Rock. Col. Smith's time was employed in discharging his duties as commander of the Fort. He had command over the ordinance office, or department, over the artillary companies, over the Safers and Miners, over the Quartermasters and Commissary Department. And at that

time there were from one to three thousand Negros at work on the fort so Smith had but very little time to devote in study or drilling. Thus passed most of our time while at Fort Pillow.

By this time some were wanting to visit their family and friends. The Col. gave furloughs to a good many, perhaps more than any other Col. would have done. We had a tri-weekly mail and we received letters from our families almost weekly.

Our Leave From Fort Pillow for Island 10

On or about the 20th day of November, 1861, we received orders to move to Island 10, Tenn. The regiment with all its baggage, wagons and mules and quartermaster and commissary stores were transported aboard the steamer, CLARY DOLSON, a large boat. But on our arrival at the Island by order of Col. Miller, who was in command because Col. Smith had left from Fort Pillow for New Orleans to get our guns, we landed on the main shore on the east side of the river just above the head of the Island. We remained at this place about six days. During our stay on the main shore Col. Miller left for Columbus, Ky., on business and left me in command. The banks of the river for some distance above our camp and also below are very high, above overflow. There are large and beautiful corn farms along the river. The soil is rich sandy soil, though in places very muddy and slick in wet weather. About three miles back from the river and from our camp is the lake known by the name of Reelfoot Lake. The citizens informed us that there were many kinds of fowls there such as geese, ducksc, swans, and in fact, all kinds of fowls known in that

country and climate. Some of the boys desired to go to the lake to kill fowls. I did not object to them going so they kept kept it up from day to day as long as we remained on the main shore. The boys had good luck in fowling. One of them killed a large fine deer.

After Col. Miller returned from Columbus I visited the lake with the desire of seeing it more than anything else. I found Reelfoot Lake averaging from one to four miles wide. This lake is not as deep as many may think. My information is that in place of the lake it was high dry land and some few farms on it until 1811 or 1812. Then the land sunk sufficiently low for it to be covered in water. There are old rotten stumps and some few dead trees seen standing to this day. Logs and chunks are floating all over it. However shallow it may be no cow or horse dare go into it because the bottom has a black soft givy mud. This is not without exception for there are some places that the lake is deep, blue eddy water. When the river is very full the water runs from the river above Island 10 and empties into the lake, thence down the lake and into the river again 15 miles below. The land between the river and lake is very rich though after leaving the river about one mile the land gets lower and so continues to the lake, though covered with cane. This surprised me, finding such fine range in an old swampy country. There are many low places much resembling an old ditch. My information says there are places made by the sinking of the lake, where the lake is now. The traveling man will not begrudge the visit if he will call and visit this section of the country and lakes.

During our stay on main shore a complaint was made

to me that a good widow lady who lived in sight of our camp had lost one of her fine meat hogs. I notified the officer of the day and asked him to notice and if any discoveries were made to report to me as commander at that time. About noon Capt. Mooney, officer of the day, gave notice that he had found fresh pork and it had been skinned. It was found in three different tents. I, knowing that no fresh meat had been issued to such persons, and I, knowing that it was not common for hogs to be skinned, I therefore ordered every man under arrest that messed in those three tents. The officer of the day soon returned to present to me 18 prisoners being six to each tent. I ordered them to be placed under guard until a courtmartial could be ordered for their trial. I ordered the pork to be taken to the commissary tent and there remain until further orders. Col. Miller returned on the next day and a courtmartial was then ordered for their trial. All of this was to no effect for the court did not find them guilty, though the court ordered that the pork should not be returned to them. The next day the commissary gave notice that the pork was missing, so if it was stolen once, it was stolen twice. Perhaps they were innocent of the charge. They are good soldiers.

Moved From Main Shore to the Island

Having remained about one week on the main shore, we then received orders from Gen. Pillow, (Gen. Polk being unable to attend his command, perhaps his affliction was caused by the bursting of a large gun at Columbus) to move our regiment on the Island. We obeyed the order of Gen. Pillow. We had a steam boat at our command by which we

transported our regiment with tents, wagons, mules, etc., over the Island.

All Safe on Island 10

Island 10 is a big, dry island mostly above overflow of the highest stage of the Mississippi. It contains about three hundred and fifty acres owned by James Price. The river is about three-fourths of a mile wide on the east side and near one mile on the west side. The largest steamers pass on either side. This Island has a sandy foundation and portions of it has a rich sandy soil though portions of it is of a black sticky nature. This Island is not entirely level, but wavy caused by the breaking of the earth in 1811 and in 1812. My information is that this Island was not known until after the sinking of the land above referred to. The earth cracking or breaking gave vent to the water, soon cutting a channel, and thus making the island known as Island 10. Most of this island is cleared in cultivation. James Price is the only settler on the island. Soon after we landed on the island, written orders were given to Col. Miller that no soldier should cross the river from the island without first getting a written permission from some one of the commissioned officers, then countersigned by one of the field officers. Therefore we did not officially have a regimental guard though kept a small guard at the landing. Mr. Price was very kind to the soldiers. He gave us free access to his turnip patch which consists of about four or five acres. There are no soldiers on the island but the 11th Ark. Regiment. Therefore it was of great benefit to us. Though he treated us so well some one would condescend to take his property, but it is unknown to me whether any of the soldiers did so or not.

Col. J. M. Smith's Return From New Orleans

We had not been on the island but a short time when Col. Smith returned from New Orleans, but no guns yet. But they were being fetched up and in a short time would be ready. About this time some of the men became enraged because they were in the service, moved from place to place for five months and no guns as yet. And we were put off with the same old promise, that in a short time they should have them. I do not blame any one of our regiment because we did not get guns, for Col. Smith spent money and much of his time in trying to furnish the regiment with guns. He made one or two trips to Columbus, Ky., to see General Polk and he wrote to General Johnson and he also wrote to Richmond, Va., to the war department. He failed in every instance.

Drilling on Island 10, Tenn.

As soon as all tents were up and the camp arranged, our whole time was spent in drilling with the exception of wash day (Saturday), and Sunday the drum sounded half after eight for parade, then until eleven o'clock. The drum sounded half after one. From then till four and sometimes five o'clock in the evening I did the most of the drilling myself, though assisted by Major Smith or the drill master. I here say that the most real enjoyment that I have seen while in the service was when I was drilling the boys of our regiment and I give credit and thanks to them for their kindness and good behavior to me while drilling, in fact at all times. While I am speaking of drilling, as perhaps this is the last time I shall mention the subject, I will add that Col. Smith

delighted in drilling when he had the time and the opportunity. But, Lieut. Col. Miller, as I believe, did not take a very great delight in drilling.

During the later part of our stay on the island, Col. Smith sent Lieutenant Selvage to New Orleans after our guns and gave orders not to return until he got them.

Christmas Day came and that day was given to all. The captains and other officers procured the essence of corn and also sugar and eggs. So on the morning of the 25th, 1861, egg nod was drunk freely. The day passed off in merriment and amusement though it is reasonable to suppose that out of 700 men, someone had the headache. During our stay on the island several persons from each company received furloughs, some for 20, some for 25, and some for 30 days. And among the rest, Ajt. Waters was sent to Arkansas as a recruiting officer.

Orders to Move to New Madrid, Mo.

The 26th day of December, 1861, we received orders from General Polk to move to New Madrid, Mo., which was on the west side of the Mississippi River ten miles from Island 10. We had at our command a small steamer of just sufficient size to transport one company at a time. Company B, commanded by Lieut. Watkins, the captain being absent at the time, and I with it, was sent to New Madrid first. We landed at Fort Thompson one mile below New Madrid. I made choice of the best place I could for camping which was on the bank of the river but in an open farm. I laid off the ground for camping as laid down in the army regulations. The boat returned to Island 10. Company B soon had tents up and the streets between each row of tents

cleared out and all was well arranged. The next day our boat returned with Company A, commanded by Lieut. Shapherd, as the Captain was absent. I pointed out the ground set apart for the company and so on from day to day until with the last company, Col. Smith came and expressed himself pleased with the arrangement of camp. Col. Miller was absent at the time, having gone home on furlough.

On the 31st day of December I visited the quartermaster's office and from him received an order for the delivery of six thousand feet of plank for flooring our tents. The weather was very cold and snowing every few days. I then rode out to the saw mill two and a half miles from camp to ascertain when the plank would be ready. I returned to camp during the after part of the day. Night came and I ate a hearty supper with Lieut. Shepherd. Then I, with F. M. Walters and E. A. Poe, walked up to my tent, it being about one hundred yards. We spent a few hours in a social conversation. Between 8 and 10 o'clock they returned to their tents. The friends having left, I arranged my bed and then retired to rest with my health as good as common. I soon was asleep and slept sound, but about midnight awoke being very cold. I soon found that I had a chill which after about one hour was followed by high fever. The next morning was the 1st day of January, 1862. The sun rose and shone on my tent beautifully. I was the only inmate with high fever and very sick and my friends visited me. The surgeon visited me often. On the third day after I was taken sick the doctor remarked to me that he thought I would be better off if I would go to some private house, but I was so sick that I paid but little attention to him. Lieut. M. N.

Shepherd got on my horse and visited the home of a widow lady. She consented to permit me to go to her house and there to remain until I got well. He then returned to camp and made arrangements for my conveyance from camp to Mrs. Harriet Maulsby's, the lady who had agreed to take me in.

Taken to Mrs. Maulsby's

The fourth day after I was taken sick some of my friends placed me in a wagon on my bed and conveyed me to Mrs. Maulsby's. I remember reaching the place. I also remember the friends toting me in the house but do not have any remembrance of being placed on the bed. I have but very little recollection of anything that transpired for at least 8 days and everything that transpired for 15 or 20 days is like a dream to me. The many imaginations and wonderful sights that I imagined and saw while sick are very plain to me even to this day. Dr. Isaacs visited me often. In fact, he remained with me day and night while at my worse. He gave me close attention. The friends from camp visited and waited on me day and night. If I had been their brother they could not have given any closer and better attention. At one time I became cold to the elbows and knees. The doctor and all friends had but little hope for my recovery. While in this condition the doctor blistered both arms and both legs and the back of my neck. The five blisters were deep and severe but I knew nothing of them until some time after they had been drawn and dressed. While I was so bad though, my mind came to me. Lieut. Poe and F. M. Walters were sitting by my bed. I told them that perhaps I might get well, but that I believed I was going to die and

that if i did I wanted Lieut. E. A. Poe to take my corpse to my family. I made known the place I wished to be buried and that was to bury me in the graveyard near Sarah Poe's. After I began to recover I became acquainted with Mrs. Maulsby. This lady is about 54 years old. She is of good property and she gave me good attention. As if I were her own son, I never looked for anything. She was by my bed day and night while I was so low. In fact, if I had been at home with my wife or my mother they could not have given me any better attention than Mrs. Maulsby. This lady whom I never saw until I was conveyed to her house by my friends was so kind to me. She treated me thus for 44 days, it being the 44th day before I was able to leave her home. When I was about to take my leave I received permission from my commander to visit my family in Saline County, Arkansas.

I asked Mrs. Maulsby what I owed her for my board and her attention to me while sick and she calmly replied to me and said, "You owe me nothing. What I have done is free and without charge." I insisted to know if she would have something for her trouble. I said to her that she had treated me as though I had been her son 44 days and also my black boy had been boarding there the same length of time. Furthermore four to six of my friends from camp had been there every night and from two to four every day during my worse sickness. I did not feel willing to leave without first paying her something for her trouble, but she refused. I then retired to my room and placed a fifty dollar bill in an envelope and then stepped into her room and handed it to her as though it were a letter. I immediately retired to my room but soon she came into my room and insisted

that I must take it back, but I refused. She then said to me that if I ever took sick or got wounded in sight of her house, that to come to her house and I would be treated as good as she was able. Mrs. Maulsby is a lady of great constitution, being 54 years old. Her only white family is one daughter, Linder Maulsby, and an orphan girl, Sarah Wright, both very fine young ladies.

On the evening of the 15th day of February, 1862, I went from Mrs. Maulsby's in her buggy to the camp of my regiment. This was much pleasure to me to be able to visit the camp of those that had visited me so often while sick.

I found all the tents floored with plank and chimneys in the tents. Most were comfortably situated. The friends had much to tell me of their scenes and hardships while out on picket duty and of their arresting the Yankee pickets and spies.

About sunset it began snowing and about dark a boat came down and landed. I went out through the snow and went aboard the boat. We then started down the river but a snow storm rose so as to make it impossible to steer the boat. When we were seven miles from camp and opposite Point Pleasant, the boat ran to shore and there remained until the next morning, being the 14th day of February, 1862. At 6 o'clock in the morning the boat left shore. The face of the earth was covered with ice and snow. The timbers were loaded with sleet. After descending the river about one hundred miles the sleet and snow disappeared. We reached Fort Pillow about 8 o'clock at night and remained there but a few minutes. The next morning about 4 o'clock we reached Memphis. Lieut. Laseter, being in bad health and on his way

home, was growing worse. My health was much better than his and on landing I looked for a White River boat and soon found one. Then assisted by my black boy, I took our trunks and Lieut. Laseter to the White River boat, but it was not to leave until five o'clock in the evening. I spent a portion of the day in the city of Memphis tending to some business. Too, I visited the paymaster's office and quartermaster's office.

At 6 o'clock the boat left for White River. We ran down the Mississippi to Napoleon thence up to the Mississippi to the mouth of White River, and up White River to Devalls Bluff. I expected to make connections with the cars but was two hours too late, having reached there at 4 o'clock when we should have reached there at 2 o'clock. There we were compelled to remain till the next evening at 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock we left Devalls Bluff on White River and reached Little Rock at 5 o'clock, and there remained until 2 o'clock the next evening. I then travelled out fifteen miles and put up with an old friend and acquaintance. The next morning, being the 20th of February, 1862, I, on horseback, left for home and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon reached home.

At Home After Being Absent Near 6 Months

Here I was met by my wife and children with the welcome smiles. This was one of the greatest pleasures of my life, to meet my devoted wife and four little children. I had been absent from her for nearly six months. It could not have been a greater pleasure to me than to my wife because she had heard of my long spell of sickness. And then to see me return with improved health must have been one of her greatest pleasures. After meeting my three little boys and

embracing them, my little and only girl continued to stand at the door and look on with amazement. I approached her and one of the little boys said, "Mary, that is Papa." But she knew me not, though in a short time she owned me as her papa. I was informed that the neighbors were well with but few exceptions. I soon made inquiries of the health of the Volunteer's families and their conditions and found nothing very serious. I was soon visited by the Volunteer's families. I had taken some two hundred letters from the Volunteers to their friends and families.

I was much weary from the fatigue of travelling and therefore I remained at home for some five days, being visited every day by the friends and neighbors. After remaining at home five days then, I, accompanied by my wife, left home and spent five days in visiting the connections and friends and visiting the families of the Volunteers. I had promised them that I would visit their families so far as in my power. And so I continued to enjoy life myself from day to day until the 8th of March, 1862.

Bid Adue to Wife and Children and Left for the War

After being and remaining with my family from the 20th of February until the 9th day of March, I then must leave. This was a hard task for me and no doubt much harder for my wife than for myself, for I was yet in delicate health. She knew, too, that the enemy was pressing into our country. The information had reached her that my regiment had received arms since I left camp at New Madrid and she knew that I could not be withheld from the field of battle much longer. Therefore she said it was hard for her to part from me, though she never was the kind of woman that

said, "Stay." The hour had come for me to take the parting hand and with weeping wife and children, turned by back on them and left them. What is the reason for this, for leaving my wife and children weeping? I answer the question by saying, "To contend for their rights." I, in company with my brother-in-law, B. G. Harrington, travelled within one mile of Little Rock and stopped for the night. Here I overtook another one of my brothers-in-law and my oldest son, Nathan, they having left home a day earlier than I did. The next morning we left our place of stay and went into Little Rock. Then all crossed the river and went to a depot. There I bid farewell to my little son, Nathan, and to Brother-in-law Harrington. The cars left for Devalls Bluff. There were a good many passengers, all strangers except W. L. Poe who was going with me to join our regiment. After 3 hours and 15 minutes run we landed at Devalls Bluff on White River. Here we were compelled to remain twenty-five hours before we could get a down-river boat. Then we left for Memphis by way of Nepoleon. We had a very pleasant trip down White and up the Mississippi River. On the morning of the 14th we landed at Memphis. After going ashore I met with several of my regiment.

At Memphis on My Return to My Regiment

Here at Memphis I met with W. S. Shepherd, Esqr. He had come to Memphis with the sick of my regiment. He informed me that the enemy succeeded in getting possession of the river at Point Pleasant seven miles below our camp, then driving in our Pickets, came in sight of camp at N e w Madrid and Fort Thompson. They also succeeded in planting a battery in sight of the front. The Confederate force

was too small for them to leave the fort and meet the enemy. On the morning of the first day of March, the enemy opened their fire on the Confederate camp from a battery that they had planted the night before. Then the firing commenced from the fort. Our gunboats came up and engaged in battle from day to day until the 13th day. Orders were given to evacuate the fort and New Madrid. He also informed me that there were but two men killed and two or three wounded and a few mules killed. That was all that was lost during the 13-day fight.

Evacuation of Fort Thompson and New Madrid

W. S. Shepherd informed me that during the night of the 13th of March, orders were given to evacuate the place in haste and to march to the boats. They were transported in silence up the river to Island 10 and our regiment crossed the river to Tiptonville. It was raining very hard and when landed at Tiptonville, they were without tents and covering.

Most of the regiment were without anything except the suit they had on. They had left wagons, mules, horses, tents, and much of their clothing and blankets. And I could say and tell the truth they left almost everything. I made inquiries as to why it was that the men left their blankets and clothing and other things that they could have toted to the boats. My information says that a great many of the men did not know that they were going to evacuate the place until they got to the boat. In fact, when they were thrown into line and marched off from their quarters many of them has since told me that they believed they were ordered out to fight the enemy, but were marched to the boats. Because the commanders kept it from the captains and other officers

about 20 of the privates and one Lieut. Torbet, was left in quarters asleep and the next morning found themselves alone. They were well acquainted with the country and did make their escape. The most of them afterwards came up with their regiment. The Lieut. and a few of the privates have never been heard from as yet. Thus was New Madrid and Fort Thompson evacuated. I believe that some person or persons was in the wrong and if justice was done they — I will not say.

Taken my Leave of Memphis for Camp

Having landed at Memphis on the morning of the 14th day of March and there remained until the 15th day in the evening, being the first means of getting off, as all boats were subjected to orders. This was the first up-river boat. I had been informed that my regiment was at Tiptonsville and I therefore went to that place. That was the stopping point for all our up-river boats at that time. I landed at Tiptonsville the 17th day at nine o'clock in the evening.

Landed At Tiptonsville 17th Day of March, 1862

As soon as I landed I inquired where the 11th Arkansas Regiment was encamped. I was informed that it had been ordered and had moved from there up into a large bend of the river known as the New Madrid Bend for the purpose of guarding the river. I then remained on the boat until the next morning, then went ashore. I soon found a few members of my regiment that had been left there, they being ineffective men. I took my trunk and placed it in the care of a friend and citizen of the place and then looked around for some way of conveyance from there to where my regiment was encamped, but could not find any. I left my

trunk at the before mentioned place, and all my clothing.

Return to my Regiment the 20th March, 1862

When I arrived at camp I was met by the friends of my regiment as though they were glad to see my return. I was much pleased to see them all apparently in good health and spirit and though there was some complaining of colds caused as they believed from exposure they had to undergo since the evacuation of Fort Thompson. I found the entire regiment as Mr. Shepherd informed me at Memphis, without tents and many without blankets and clothes. They were also destitute of almost anything to cook in. I have seen some roll the wheat dough around a stick and bake it or broil it, this being their only chance. This was of no pleasure to me. When I left camp in February I left my horse in the care of Dr. Isaacs, but on my return to camp I was informed that my horse and rigging had been left in Fort Thompson and was then in the possession of the Federals. This I cared but little for, but did lament the condition of the soldiers of my regiment, though they were soon scanty supplied with tents and cooking utensils. At this time the regiment was encamped on the east side of the river but a short distance below Point Pleasant though on the opposite side of the river. There were details for many of the men day and night for the purpose of guarding the river and the battery. The guards extended along the bank of the river for two miles, the enemy being on the opposite side of the river. Early in the morning or late in the evening when all was quiet and still the guards would talk to each other across the river. Some would propose to meet in the middle of the river and swap caps or swap knives or

coats, but they never met each other. We did but little drilling while in the bend for the fact that so many of the regiment was daily detailed for guard duty and other purposes. It was thought best to give rest to them.

Moved to Watson's Battery

During the 5th day of April, 1862, we received orders to move up the river to one of our batteries called Watson's Battery. So, that night at 8 o'clock the regiment took up the march and at 2 o'clock reached the place, halted, spread blankets, and slept until day. The next day one of the federal gunboats that had succeeded in passing the Island came down and fired on the battery that we were guarding. The fire was returned from the battery. No damage was done to either. The boat passed below but soon returned and again opened fire and returned from our battery as before though passed up and no perceivable damage done to either the boat or our battery. I suppose that was near one hundred guns fired from the boat and battery in going and coming. We were all weary and retired at night expecting a good nights rest but during the night a heavy rain and a wind came. The entire regiment was without tents, but compelled to take it. About midnight a heavy firing was seen and heard at the Island, but in spite of the heavy cannon, another gunboat passed the Island, so the Federals had two of their best gunboats below and the remainder above the Island. The next morning the clouds cleared away and the sun rose clear and beautiful. But early in the morning the Federal gunboat came down and attacked the battery on the opposite side of the river. So the Ironclad gunboat and two land batteries were too much for the one bat-

tery that we were guarding, so the artillerist were compelled to leave their guns and retreat for life, having a very large open plantation to retreat through. The guns from the boat and batteries were firing on them at the time though all escaped. Not one hurt. The gunboat then landed and took the battery. During this engagement we were ordered to march in the direction of Tiptonsville.

Retreated Out of New Midrid Bend

At 8 o'clock in the morning of 7th day of April, the Col. commanding received orders to move in the direction of Tiptonsville which was about 8 miles southeast of our camp. So every man took his knapsack and his cartridge box and his few blankets and his gun which made a good load. The road was muddy. So we took up the march about 10 o'clock and about 3 o'clock in the afternoon we arrived within two miles of Tiptonsville. Here we met with General McCall and the most of his division. We were then near the river. The General gave orders for the entire division to make an offset to the left so as to avoid being seen on the river. On reaching the main division at this place we learned that we were then evacuating the Island and bend. As we had been ordered to make an offset to the east of one mile, then south a short distance, then to the west a short distance, then south about one mile. About this time some of our rear guard came up and informed the General that the Federals were pursuing us in large numbers. The General then formed the line of battle, this being at sunset. Here in this condition we remained expecting the enemy to attack us every minute. Night came and several times during the night we were aroused to our feet. Every man was

sitting or lying with his gun in his arms and had not eaten anything since morning but a little bread and meat. It will be remembered that when we formed the line of battle about sundown that we were only one mile east of Tiptonsville in a cypress swamp and about 8 miles south of us were our gunboats and transports lying and waiting for our arrival. Here in this swamp we remained all night expecting every hour to get orders to march to our boats as we knew there was no enemy between us and the boats. But owing to the darkness of the night and bad conditions of the swamp, the General kept the division there until the next morning.

Surrender of the 11th Arkansas Regiment

Early in the morning of the 8th of April, the Col. called the attention of the regiment. All was soon in the lines as we supposed for the purpose of moving south to the boats, but the sad report was announced to us that the General had surrendered the entire division. This certainly was very unexpected to many of the volunteers. This was an hour long to be remembered by many. It appeared to most of the Volunteers as though all hope for the South was gone and many expressed their thoughts by saying that if the army could pass Island 10 that they could pass all other fortified points and make their way to the mouth of the river thereby cutting the South in two. I confess that the prospects looked gloomy to me. This was one of the saddest times of my life, now to be taken to some Northern prison and perhaps there to remain for months and perhaps for years and to see men that had volunteered and left their families, parents, and friends. They went in defense of their country and now were to be taken to some Northern prison

to be deprived of all intercourse with their families and to endure the horrors of a prison life. No person that has not experienced a prison life can form the l e a s t idea of the condition and sad feelings of an army surrendered to an enemy that is possessed of the hatred that they had to the Southerner.

After Being Surrendered

Soon after the Col. informed the regiment that General had surrendered, then orders were for all to stack the guns. We did as ordered. We were then marched to Tiptonsville one mile and placed under heavy guard. The enemy then came in from every direction. The enemy was sent out in search of more Confederates for they were much surprised to find as small a force as was surrendered. They expressed great disappointment. They said that they had been of the impression that our forces were numbered some ten or fifteen thousand and, of course, they were greatly disappointed on finding that our forces numbered only about four thousand, and that the forces in the neighborhood of Island 10 numbered about forty thousand. This is unreasanable to report but it is true. The small force of four thousand held the Island and vacinity against such odds for weeks. Only the river was between the two armies. As before stated the Confederate army numbered four thousand, of that number near one thousand made their escape. Several attempted to escape but were caught by the enemy and were brought back.

As before stated we were under strong guard at Tiptonsville and there remained in an open field the remainder of that day and that night. We were without tents or any

covering. It was cold and raining all night and we had nothing to eat from one morning until the next evening and then nothing but flour bread and bacon.

Early in the morning of the 8th of April we were marched to the boats then thansported up the river to New Madrid, Mo. We arrived there at one o'clock of the same day.

Landed at New Madrid, Mo.

As soon as we landed at New Madrid, the officers were separated from the privates. The officers were sent to dwell in houses that had been deserted by the owners. In those houses we were guarded and compelled to remain in the house and yard. The privates were put under strong guard on the bank of the river without tents or covering of any kind. The ground was muddy and many places covered with water. In this condition they remained until the next evening. Then all the officers were placed on one boat and privates on the other boats. Late in the evening of the 10th of April all sailed up the river with a guard on each boat, but we knew not where we were going and being in the hands of our enemy, could do nothing but as ordered by them. About sunset of the same day we passed Island 10. This place looked to be a ruined place. Some seven or eight steamboats had been sunk, none but the upper portions to be seen. The enemy was there and rejoicing at our defeat. All was sad to us.

At 6 o'clock in the forenoon of the 11th of April we landed at Cairo. This town is in the fork of the Ohio and Mississippi River and if there was no levy around the town it would have been submerged by water, the rivers being very high.

Left Cairo, Illinois

At 12 o'clock on the 11th day of April, 1862, the officers were placed on passenger cars and the privates placed on common freight cars. The doors were closed and confined. The officers were put on Parole so we, the officers, had the privilege of going from car to car or from stone to stone, that is, when the cars were standing. But not so with the privates, for they were confined in their box cars and a guard placed over them. They were compelled to remain in the cars, not permitted to leave under any circumstances.

In this condition we left Cairo travelling up the Central Illinois Railroad. At leaving Cairo the officers were compelled to leave their men, the men being sent to Chicago, Illinois, the officers from Cairo to Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio, "via" Centerville, Terre Haute; Indianapolis, the state capital of Indiana; thence Dayton, thence to Columbus, the capital of Ohio. We were confined in a prison four miles from Columbus. The prison at Camp is surrounded by a plank wall 14 feet high enclosing several acres of land with tolerable good cabins of size for 15 to 20 men, one cooking stove to each room. The prison is surrounded day and night by a strong guard. On our arrival at prison we found several thousand men in prison, officers, privates, and a few Negroes all in the same prison. None of the privates of the 11th Arkansas Regiment were in the prison with the officers of their regiment. We arrived at Camp Chase prison at dark the 13th day of April. While in the prison before mentioned we were treated very well and got plenty to eat, but I will here add that I was in bad health when surrendered and grew worse. By the time I reached Camp Chase prison, I

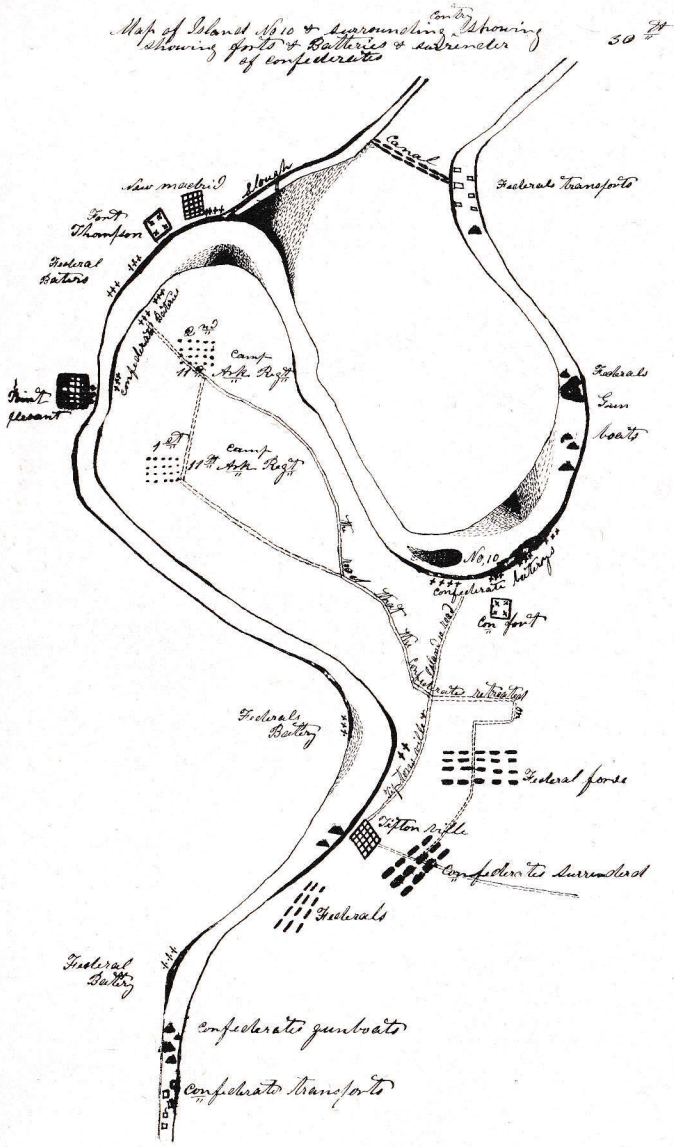
was in very bad health and by taking strong Phisic (Note: a medicine that purges) I was soon badly salivated and for over one week was compelled to write down any question that I wished to know, for I could not speak without the greatest pain. For four weeks I could not eat anything of hard substance. On my arrival I was sent to block 40, prison three, and not permitted to room with anyone from my own regiment. But the gentlemen of my room treated me as though I had been a brother and gave good attention to me while I was sick. They were mostly from Tenn.

Left Camp Chase, Ohio, the 26th April, 1862

Early on the morning of the 26th I, with a portion of officers of my regiment and other officers numbering about two hundred, were taken from Camp Chase prison and marched to Columbus, 4 miles. There we took transportation on cars and were carried to Johnson's Island near Sandusky City, Ohio, which is about 120 miles from Camp Chase. We were 6 hours running from Columbus to Sandusky, about 120 miles.

Reached Johnson's Island, 26th April, 6 o'clock Afternoon

Johnson's Island is surrounded by the waters of Lake Erie, it being three miles from the mainland at the city across to the Island. On reaching this Island, I, with my comrades, was marched to prison some 200 yards f r o m the landing. The largest gate was unlocked, then opened and we marched in. On arriving here I found about 800 prisoners, mostly officers. The prison is made by enclosing 15 acres with a strong, thick plank wall 12 or 14 feet high, with a platform attached to the wall that the guard walks around the prison both day and night guarding the prisoners. When



night comes large lamps are lighted up so that no person can go within 15 feet of the wall either day or night. If any person is seen to cross over the line within 15 feet of the wall they are subject to be shot by the guard, therefore no one will dare to cross the line. Also when night comes all are compelled to go into the different rooms. If any person is out after night he is liable to be shot by the guard. If the water is out and we wish to go to the well, we are not permitted to do so. Several persons have been shot at in this prison since I have been here. Two of them were hit. One of them was shot through both thighs, one broke. This prison is on the east side of the Island and as before mentioned surrounded by a strong plank wall with 13 large two story houses with bunks enough in each building to accomodate 200 men to the building. Each building is divided into three rooms in the lower part and three rooms in the upper story. One small stove is in each of these rooms. These buildings are numbered 1, 2, and so on to 13. I am, at this time, writing in No. 11, or as we call them, Block 11. I room in the middle room in the upper story where I have from the window of my room, a view of the city of Sandusky which is three miles distant. I have a full view of Lake Erie. To the east my eye beholds nothing but the broad waters of the lake. The sun rises as from a watery bed, but sits behind the thick timber of the Island, the western portion being thick, heavy timbered with sugar trees and sugar maple, ash, walnut, and buckeye trees. At any time I can see vessels, sometimes as high as 15 or 20 sailboats and steamboats sailing on the lake. Since I came to this prison, I have had the pleasure of rooming with the officers of my regiment.

All of them are here except Capts. Waters and Duglass, and some 3 or 4 Lieutenants who made their escape because they were absent from the regiment at the time of our surrender. We get plenty to eat here such as it is, viz, loaf bread, beef, pork, coffee, sugar and sometimes dried beans. We get very tired of being confined to one diet. If the question was asked what we will have tomorrow for dinner we can easily tell for we know that it will be the same old diet. There are men in prison here that lives in Ky. and Tenn. and Mo. that are inside of the enemies lines. They write to their families and if they want money their friends send it to them. This way they can get vegetables from the sellers of all kinds, such as Irish potatoes, radishes, beets, onions, green beans, cucumbers, strawberries and raspberries. In fact, a man that has money can buy anything he wants, can live as well here as if at home. But the poor prisoner that has no money here lives hard and the greater portion of prisoners here are without means. There are many men here that has good property at home, but no money here, not even enough to buy their tobacco or pay for the washing of their clothes. I have seen men washing their clothes here that is worth, say, fifty thousand dollars. Some sell their watches at one-third their values to get means. There are but few men in this prison but what has plenty of Dixie money but it will not pass in this country. I have $400.00 at this time, but the Yankees will not take it. I look forward to the day with fond anticipation when I will be released from my prison and return to the sunny South where I can feel as a free man.

There are about 11 hundred prisoners here, mostly officers, this being the 31st and last day of July, 1862. The

men in this prison devote their time in many ways, some by reading the papers, some by reading the Bible, some by reading history, tracts, or novels. We get papers every day by paying 5c for one. Some devote their time by gaming at all kinds of games, card playing of every description, some by playing marbles, pitching dollars, playing ball in many ways. Others devote their time in making fancy sticks, fancy pipes watch chains, fob chains, cuff buttons, sleeve buttons, bracelets, and, in fact, there are men here making almost any and everything that can possibly be made of Girtipurture, (Note —presumable a type of wood, common to the area) shell, wood and so forth. There are men here that wash every day from morning till night. They wash for 5c a wash and iron for 10c a garment. Those that have no means wash and cook their victuals themselves.

When I first came to this prison, the Federal officers that command this prison called us out in front of our rooms and the roll was called morning and evening, but since the elapse of a few weeks, they have got to calling the roll at 8 o'clock in the forenoon, dispensing with rollcall in the evening. Any man being brought here as a prisoner, he having money, it is taken from him and placed in the hands of the commander of this prison, then if the prisoner wishes to buy any clothing or vegetables or anything such as books, tobacco, and so forth, the prisoner must give an order on the commander that's holding his money, for such amount as he may have bought.

There has been several Ladies come here to see their husbands. Such Ladies have first to pledge their honor that they will not give any money to their husband and that

they will not make known anything contraband to him. Then, and not until then, their husband is taken out of the prison and permitted to converse with their wives, sometimes for 3 or 4 hours. Then the husband returns to prison and the wife leaves for her place of abode. She is never permitted to come in the prison, but while he is out conversing with his wife, he is closely watched and guarded.

One Lady at a cost of sixty dollars travelled some six hundred miles. She was only permitted to remain with her husband two hours, then left to travel over the same long and lonesome road. So this lady travelled 1,200 miles and paid out 120 dollars and then could not remain with her husband but two hours. No person is permitted to come within this prison, except it is the sellers, officers, and such persons as fetch our provisions in to us. They are issued to us once a week except beef and that is issued each morning. No prisoner is permitted to enter into a conversation with a guard.

Johnson's Island, July 31st AD 1862

Since I have been in this prison I have received letters from the volunteers of my regiment at Camp Douglass near Chicago, Illinois. There has been many deaths among them since they have been in prison. They write to me that it is a sickly place for sickness. News is in camp for several days that the Northern and Southern governments have made arrangements for a general exchange of prisoners. God bid that it may be true and that I may soon be released from this prison and return to the land of Dixie where I can hear from my wife and children if I can't see them, for I have not heard a word from them since I left them the 8th

of March. Could I see and read a letter from my loving wife, though I am in prison, I certainly would rejoice. I have been writing for some hours amid much confusion and noise as has been the case since I commenced this memorandum, having written this by piecemeals. I will close for the present by saying that I hope soon to see the land of Dixie, this 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon of July 31st, 1862.

August 3rd, 1862

This being the 3rd day of August, 1862 and nothing serious has occurred or of note since the 31 July date above with the exception that the Chaplains received notice that they were unconditionally released. So in compliance with the notice at 6 o'clock tihs evening, Parson E. Hogue with 6 other Chaplains left this prison for their different places of abode in the fair sunny South and I sent $300.00 in Confederate money to my wife and also loaned fifty dollars to Parson Hogue and sent a present of five rings of my making to my wife.

Jas. T. Poe

Eighth Day of August, 1862

This the 8th day of August, 1862, nothing of note has transpired since 3th installment, that at last notice, more than health of this prison if good, and news is current in prison that a general exchange of prisoners is going as speedily as possible and that a report was in camp last evening that Napoleon has declared that he will give aid to the Southern Confederacy by furnishing her with a sea and land force of sufficient strength to sustain herself, to the recognition of her independence by the North. This day is my cook day and I hope that I may be released from prison be-

FORM No. 3.

OFFICERS' PAY ACCOUNT.

The Confederate States to Major James J. Poe of the 11th Arkansas Regiment Dr.

ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	Commencement and expiration. From—	To—	Term of service charged. Months.	Days.	Pay per month. Dollars.	Cents.	Amount. Dollars.	Cents	REMARKS.
PAY— For myself	8 Oct 1861	8 Sept 1862	1	00	150	00/100	150	00/100	
For private servant, not soldier.									
FORAGE— For horse									
CLOTHING— For private servant, not soldier.									

SUBSISTANCE—	No. of days.	No. of rations per day.	Total number of rations.	Post or place where due.	Price of ration. Cts.
For myself for——— service				Memphis Tenn	
For private servant, not soldier.					

I hereby certify that the foregoing account is accurate and just; that I have not been absent without leave during any part of the time charged for; that I have not received pay, nor drawn rations, forage, or clothing in kind, or received money in lieu of any part thereof, for any part of the time therein charged; that I actually owned and kept in service, the horses, and employed the private servants for which I charge, for the whole of the time charged; and that I did not, during the term so charged, or any part thereof, keep or employ a soldier as a waiter or servant; that the annexed is an accurate description of my servant; that, for the whole period charged for my staff appointment, I actually and legally held the appointment, and did duty in the department; that I was the actual and only commanding officer at the double ration post charged for; and that no officer, within my knowledge, has a right to claim, or does claim, for said services, for any part of the period charged; that for the whole time brevet pay is claimed, I had the command stated; I was actually in the company for the whole time additional pay is charged; that I have not been in the performance of any staff duty for which I claim, or have received, extra compensation during the time an additional ration is charged for; that I have been in the Confederate States Army as a commissioned officer for the number of ..... stated in the charge for extra rations that I am not in arrears with the Confederate States on any account whatsoever; and that the last payment I received was from Paymaster ..... and to the ..... day of 186

I at the same time acknowledge that I have received of Maj W. P. Anderson Paymaster, this 1st day of September, 1861, the sum of One hundred & fifty dollars and ..... cents, being the amount in full of said account.

James J. Poe Major 11th Ark Regt

DESCRIPTION OF SERVANTS.

fore my day rolls around again.

J. T. Poe

August 9th, 1862

9 o'clock in the forenoon

Last night 45 minutes after 9 o'clock, Lieut. Elisha Gibson of 11th Arkansas Regiment, while going from his dining room to his quarters, was halted and ordered to go to his quarters. He informed that guard that he was going to his quarters. The guard ordered him to go back, at the same time, leveled his gun. Gibson turned back as he was ordered, although that was not the direction to his room, for he was going in the direction of his room when the guard ordered him to turn and go back. He, being deprived of going to his room, could do nothing more than turn his course and go into the first room he came to. As he entered the door the guard fired. One large ball and two buck shot took effect in his right breast and one small shot in the left arm, the large ball passing through and coming out at the cross of his suspenders. He fell instantly, but no person was permitted to go to him until the officer came. He was then taken from the doorstep into the room and died in one minute after taken in. He lived about 15 minutes after being shot. There was myself and others that saw the whole affair. I and others washed and dressed him, then sat up with the corpse through the night. Great excitement was in the prison this morning on account of the same. I feel much wearied this morning having had no rest last night.

J. T. Poe

August 10th, 9:15 o'clock forenoon, 1862

Last evening Lieut. Gibson was interred. All the offi-

cers of his regiment was permitted to go out of prison to the graveyard with his corpse and assist in and see him buried. A Federal officer informs us that morning that all prisoners will leave this prison this week. This morning at 9 o'clock a Federal officer came in and put several notices in conspicuous places in the prison reading this "viz" all persons that prefer taking the oath to returning to the Southern army will give notice to Maj. Pierson, Com. of prison, immediately. This caused great excitement and laughter. Many of the prisoners hissed at the notice. Perhaps some will take the oath. If any, it will be those that live this side of the southern line, perhaps they that will take the oath are few in number.

August 16th 12 o'clock, 1862

Nothing strange or serious has occurred in this prison since the above note was written, on the 10th, more that orders have been strictly enforced. Since the death and murder of Lieut. Gibson, no person has been permitted to pass from one house to another after night without first hailing the guard and getting permission. I have heard persons call the guard at a late hour at night and ask for permission to go to the privy or sink. No person is safe to leave his room after dark. If a friend gets sick and wants water or Phisic, the guards' consent must be had before leaving the room for that purpose. Col. Miller received a letter from Levy of Cincinnati this morning stating that Parson Hogue left that city the 7th saying the parson's health was improving and that he left aboard a steamer direct from that place to Memphis. He left here the 3rd and left Cincinnati the 7th for home in Arkansas. The news in regard to a general ex-

change up to this hour is very good. I believe I will be released from this incarcerated prison in a few days.

Jas. T. Poe

Monday, 18th day of August, 1862

The health of the prisoners here is very good. All is quiet in prison. Nothing serious has happened since the last note above (16). We head that Stonewall Jackson has defeated Pope near Culpepper, and then Jackson fell back across the Rapadan and had drawn Pope out and was this day reflanking him again. We expect to hear a good account of Jackson on the Rapadan River in a few days. The news as to the exchange of prisoners is good today. This day the Federals did not bring in any bread for dinner and I gave 10 cents for ten biscuits, though after dinner bread was brought in, though too late for dinner. I have this day written a letter to Mary Poe, my wife, and directed it to my father in Alabama.

Tuesday, August 19th, 1862

All is quiet in prison. The news is good in regard to exchange. We hear that the Arkansas Dam was blown up near Baton Rouge and Breckinridge had his arm s h o t off. We also hear that Nashville is surrounded by the Confederates and that all railroad communication is cut off from the city. The today's papers say that one-third of the volunteers have been rejected by the examining surgeon.

Jas. T. Poe

August the 20th, 1862

Many papers in prison today. Nothing very serious. Fears by the Federals are entertained for the the safety of the papers confirm the report that the Arkansas Dam was

blown up near Baton Rogue and some fears are entertained as to Pope's army. All is quiet on the exchange of prisoners. The Federals claim to have taken 700 prisoners on the White River, Arkansas. One of the guards shot at something at 10 o'clock. Perhaps it was a poor prisoner. I have not been able to learn.

James T. Poe

August the 21st, 1862

Nothing serious today. About dark this evening a Federal officer came in prison to inform some of us that orders had been received for the prisoners of this prison to be sent south for exchange. The prisoners shouted witn joy and great was the excitement. I fear that it is what we call, "grapevine." This day twelve months ago, I left home for the war. About 500 of the prisoners here were permitted to go out of prison and into the lake for the purpose of bathing and fishing, though under guard.

Jas. T. Poe

August 22nd, 1862

All quiet in the prison today. Nothing serious in prison today. The papers say that the Confederates are moving into Kentucky, also that 26 Rebels were recently shot by the Federals, they having been caught while on Patrol and 12 others are to suffer the same fate. Also the printing office of the CRISES has been stoned and types and many valuable article thrown into the street and broken. Also accounts are given of the capture of many Skeedadlers who were trying to escape the draft.

Jas. T. Poe

Saturday, August 23rd, 1862

All quiet in prison today. At roll call this morning all the prisoners were notified that at the sound of the drum at ten o'clock all persons whose name commenced with the letter "A" should fall into line and after the correct name and grade were taken then the drum would be sounded a second time and all of the letter "B" would fall in line and so on until all names were called. But before the hour arrived the officer of the day came in and gave notice that the drum would be sounded at 2 o'clock and accordingly did so, at then B, then C, and so on down the alphabet to letter N, at which time the Federals thought best to quit as night was drawing nigh. Perhaps they will resume their labors on tomorrow. All is quiet in prison. It is believed that all was done today is preparatory to an exchange.

Jas. T. Poe

Sunday the 24th 1862

All quiet today. The officers came in this morning and completed the roll of all the prisoners here. All has been very quiet in prison today being the Sabbath Day. All are looking for orders of exchange. There has been a hard fight of 10 minutes in prison today, neither one whipped, they being parted.

Jas. T. Poe

Monday August 25th, 1862

Nothing strange in prison today. More than the officers of the day came in and gave orders to the prisoners of Block 11 and 12 and 13 that they would move into others so as to give room for other prisoners. They, the officers, then fitted up those three rooms by putting stoves, seats, and

tables in them. It is reported that those three buildings are to be filled with political prisoners and that they will come in on tomorrow. Late this evening there was some excitement. A report was, by some person, started in prison that the exchange had been broken up and perhaps we would have to remain here this winter. So there are some very long faces in prison. I do not give it any credit. A man died in prison this morning.

Jas. T. Poe

Wednesday, August the 27th, 1862

Nothing strange since the 25th, Monday. More than today between 300 and 400 political prisoners were brought into this prison. They are mostly from Kentucky and Tenn. Col. Hoffman who cammands all the western prisons, is here today and he says he will be sent south as soon as arrangements can be made. We are all alive with joy. This day 4 Col. and Maj. was Paroled to report at Vicksburg by the 15 September.

Jas. T. Poe

Thursday August 28th 1862

This day H. A. Winger, Ajt., of my Regiment and Lieut. Moore of the first Ala. Regiment and one other person took the oath to the Federal Government. (U.S.) They were hissed at by the prisoners. As they went out their heads were dropped. (NOTE: Notice notation of oath on alphabetical listing of prisoners by H. A. Winger's name.) The commander of this prison, Maj. Pierson, informs us that as soon as transportation can be had he will start us South, in three days at the outside. Great will be the rejoicing when we leave this incarcerated prison. This day was my cook day

Friday August 29th, 1862

The Com. of this prison informs us that he will start us South on Monday next. There is much rejoicing by all of the prisoners. We have learned by telegraph that Pope and Jackson had a hard fight this day. Pope confesses his loss in killed and wounded to be 8,000 and says from the looks of the field the Confederates loss must be twice that number.

Sunday August the 31st, 1862 12 o'clock

We have orders to pack up our blankets and clothing for them to be taken out this evening. Also orders are for us to be ready to leave by 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. So every person is moving and every man looks pleasing and the sick appear to be alive with joy and I am told that there is not more than three or four in the hospital but what will be able to leave with the rest of the prisoners, though while we are rejoicing the Sympathizers and citizens that are in prison here look sad and lonesome. There are something over 300 of them here. Perhaps this is the last note I shall make until I get to Dixie. Therefore I close by saying that I much desire the protection of God from this to Dixie.

Left Johnson's Island Prison

On Monday the 1st day of September, 1862, on passenger cars we left Johnson's Island. But when we arrived at Indianapolis, Ind., we were placed on box and stock cars. We arrived at Cairo Wednesday night at 10 o'clock being the 3rd of September. We were then marched on to a steam boat and it moved out and anchored in the middle of the Mississippi River. Here we remained out at anchor 5 days. On Monday, the 8th, September, we ran down to Island Ten,